

Jacksonville Tree Commission  
Wednesday July 19, 2023 – 9:30 AM  
For approval August 16, 2023  
Via Zoom Platform & In Person

**Commissioners  
Present:**

Chris Flagg, Chair  
Curtis Hart  
Chris Miller  
Steve Long

**Staff:**

**Public:** Dave McDaniel, COJ  
Carol Register, COJ  
Tracey Arpen, Scenic Jax  
Scott Sauder, JEA  
Mike Zaffaroni, Liberty Landscape  
Kelly O’Leary, Liberty Landscape  
John November, Public Trust  
Susan Kelly, DIA  
Jennifer Grable, COJ  
Jameka Smith, COJ  
Kathleen McGovern, COJ  
Lisa Grubba, Greenscape  
Nancy Powell, Scenic Jax  
Fred Pope, Scenic Jax  
Nick Lamb, Greenway Landscape  
Jeff Lucovsky, COJ  
Aaron Hallett, COJ  
Jill Enz, COJ

**Advisors:**

Susan Grandin, OGC  
Justin Gearhart, City Arborist  
Jonathan Colburn, Urban Forestry Manager

1. **Call to Order** – Chair
2. **Roll Call and Verification of Quorum** – Chair
3. **Submittal of Speaker’s Cards** – Chair
  - a) A raised hand icon as well as waving at the screen will be acknowledged by Chair.
  - b) For those attending in person, paper speakers’ cards are available.
4. **Action Items:**
  - a) Minutes from May 17, 2023 Tree Commission Meeting
    - i. Approved (Mr. Hart motion, Mr. Long second)
  - b) Minutes from May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Urban Forestry Master Plan Subcommittee
    - i. Approved (Mr. Hart motion, Mr. Long second)
  - c) Proposed Level 2 Projects
    - i. Gator Bowl-
      1. Mr. Gearhart presented the project.

## 2. Public Comment

- i. Mr. Long spoke in support.
- ii. Ms. Powell asked about the 30 foot spacing and why additional trees were not added.
- iii. Mr. Gearhart replied that it was due to utilities, drainage and maintenance concerns,
- iv. Mr. Flagg agreed that we would like more trees when logical, however appreciate the concerns and time taken for showing future canopy.
- v. Mr. Hart agreed that clusters of trees is how trees are often found in nature.

## 3. Vote

- i. Approved (Mr. Hart motion, Mr. Long second)

### ii. Westside Parks Level 2

1. Ms. McGovern presented the project and stated Yancy Park is to be removed from the list of parks.

#### 2. Public Comment

- i. Mr. Hart asked about the possibility of doing outreach to associations to help water the trees after they are planted.
- ii. Ms. McGovern replied that this could be considered after the warranty.
- iii. Mr. Pope stated he wasn't sure that the associations will be able to do so as trucking watering out is difficult. Also stated that Live oaks should be away from paved areas by at least 10 feet. He questioned why more trees weren't being planted and that should use 3" caliper trees rather than 4" caliper.
- iv. Ms. McGovern replied that parks have future plans so they can't fill some of the empty spaces.
- v. Ms. Powell pled for shade and planning around existing canopy, while questioning use of bald cypress as shade.
- vi. Ms. McGovern replied that bald cypress is good for poorly drained locations.
- vii. Mr. Long stated that Liverman Park is a hurricane debris dumping site, so consideration about leaving access and space for that is needed. Additionally, the Nuttall Oak is proposed in an area with pipe work.
- viii. Mr. Arpen stated Lift Every Voice Park provides no shade as oaks were not planted.
- ix. Ms. Powell stated she recalls palms were approved on final plans.

x. Ms. Enz stated the final planting plan has not been completed and that 80% of the trees will be shade.

xi. Mr. McDaniel stated that there were design criteria standards that were created by DIA for tree planting options.

xii. Ms. Powell stated that those standards should be discussed at a future commission meeting.

xiii. Mr. Pope stated that these big projects should include funding for trees and not rely on tree fund.

### 3. Vote

i. Approved (Mr. Hart motion, Mr. Long second)

**d) Fund balance and encumbrance report for 15(F) (Ordinance Tree Fund), 15(N) (Charter Tree Fund) and BJP (Attachment A) – Mr. Reguerio**

i. The fact that these accounts do accrue interest as shown under investment pool earnings.

**e) Fund Status of 630-CITY, Remove & Replace and Level 2 Programs (Attachment C) – Mr. Gearhart**

i. Agreement was made amongst attendees that the Charter fund needs to be used.

1. Once the available pools of money get low, our next legislation piece will add a pool of charter fund money.

ii. Agreement was made amongst attendees that the Better Jacksonville Plan (BJP) funds need to be used.

1. Several Public Works projects are underway for BJP, we will look into using BLP tree funds with these.

**f) Status of Pending Level 2 Tree Projects (Attachment B) – Mr. Gearhart**

### 5. New Business

**a)** A discussion was initiated by Mr. Flagg surrounding further education for the City Arborist. He also proposed the City Arborist attend and speak at conferences in neighboring cities. He added that there needs to be an avenue where funds can be used from the tree fund towards the City Arborists continued learning and conferences. Ms. Grandin stated that the current legislation will have to be revised to include the approved use of tree funds for the City Arborist's continuing education. Mr. McDaniel asked Council Member Miller to consider taking this proposed legislation to the City Council for approval. Mr. Long said to allow the Councilman Miller time to get familiar with his commission role. Ms. Grubba spoke about her connection with an organization in Gainesville that has approved this type of legislation. She added that she was willing to share the contact information for them to speak at a future commission meeting.

### 6. Public Comment

**7. Adjournment** – the next Tree Commission meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at 9:30am and will be a Hybrid/Zoom meeting in Ed Ball Building, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Public Works Office, conference room 5.